

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A tool for association with a ratchet wheel of a tie-down device, the tie-down device for securing an article by a strap whereby a shaft is journaled for rotation in which the strap is wound around the shaft in a take-up direction, the tie-down device ratchet wheel  
5 having ratchet teeth rotatable with the shaft and a pawl engaging the ratchet teeth to allow rotation of the winding shaft in the take-up direction and prevent rotation in the other direction, the ratchet wheel further having a center bore which extends in a direction parallel with the shaft, the tool comprising:

a handle having substantially parallel first and second surfaces;

10 a first extension coupled to a distal end of said handle on said first surface and extending perpendicularly therefrom and adapted for insertion into the ratchet center bore;

a second extension coupled to a center portion of said handle first surface and extending perpendicularly therefrom and adapted for insertion into the ratchet teeth; and

15 a third extension coupled to said handle opposite said distal end on said second surface and extending perpendicularly therefrom.

2. The tool of Claim 1, wherein said third extension is cooperable with said first and second extensions for enabling a user to rotate the tie-down device shaft when said first extension and said second extension are engaged with said ratchet center bore and ratchet  
20 teeth, respectively.

3. The tool of Claim 1, wherein said first extension has an effective diameter of slightly less than the ratchet wheel center bore.

4. The tool of Claim 1, wherein said first extension has an effective diameter of slightly less than the ratchet wheel center bore such that said first extension is insertable thereinto for snug fit therein.

5. The tool of Claim 1, wherein said first extension has a cylindrical shape extending perpendicularly from said handle first surface and has a diameter slightly less than the ratchet wheel center bore such that said first extension is insertable thereinto for snug fit therein.

6. The tool of Claim 1, wherein said first extension has a cylindrical shape extending perpendicularly from said handle first surface and has a diameter of approximately 1.3 inches.

7. The tool of Claim 1, wherein said second extension is located on said handle first surface at a cooperable distance from said first extension such that said first extension is insertable into said ratchet center bore and said second extension is insertable into the ratchet teeth.

8. The tool of Claim 1, wherein said second extension is located on said handle first surface at a distance from said first extension which is approximately equal to the distance from the valley of a ratchet wheel tooth to the outside circumference of the ratchet wheel center bore.

5

9. The tool of Claim 1, wherein said second extension is located on said handle first surface at a distance from said first extension which is approximately equal to seven tenths of an inch.

10 10. The tool of Claim 1, wherein said third extension extends from said handle second surface at a distant enabling the grasp of a human hand.

11. A lashing system, comprising:

a tie-down assembly for securing an article via a strap, said tie-down assembly having a frame and a shaft is journaled thereto for rotation in which said strap is windable around said shaft in a take-up direction via a pivoting lever selectively engagable with and  
5 rotatable with said shaft for incremental pivoting, said tie-down device further having a ratchet wheel having ratchet teeth rotatable with the shaft, the ratchet wheel further having a center bore which extends in a direction parallel with the shaft; and

a rewind tool comprising:

a handle having substantially parallel first and second surfaces;

10 a first extension coupled to a distal end of said handle on said first surface and extending perpendicularly therefrom and adapted for insertion into the ratchet center bore;

a second extension coupled to a center portion of said handle first surface and extending perpendicularly therefrom and adapted for insertion into the ratchet teeth;  
15 and

a third extension coupled to said handle opposite said distal end on said second surface and extending perpendicularly therefrom.

12. The lashing system of Claim 11, wherein said third extension is cooperable  
20 with said first and second extensions for enabling a user to rotate the tie-down device shaft

when said first extension and said second extension are engaged with said ratchet center bore and ratchet teeth, respectively.

13. The lashing system of Claim 11, wherein said first extension has an effective  
5 diameter of slightly less than the ratchet wheel center bore.

14. The lashing system of Claim 11, wherein said first extension has an effective  
diameter of slightly less than the ratchet wheel center bore such that said first extension is  
insertable thereinto for snug fit therein.

15. The lashing system of Claim 11, wherein said first extension has a cylindrical  
shape extending perpendicularly from said handle first surface and has a diameter slightly  
less than the ratchet wheel center bore such that said first extension is insertable thereinto for  
snug fit therein.

16. The lashing system of Claim 11, wherein said first extension has a cylindrical  
shape extending perpendicularly from said handle first surface and has a diameter of  
approximately 1.3 inches.

17. The lashing system of Claim 11, wherein said second extension is located on  
said handle first surface at a cooperable distance from said first extension such that said first

extension is insertable into said ratchet center bore and said second extension is insertable into the ratchet teeth.

18. The lashing system of Claim 11, wherein said second extension is located on  
5 said handle first surface at a distance from said first extension which is approximately equal to the distance from the valley of a ratchet wheel tooth to the outside circumference of the ratchet wheel center bore.

19. The lashing system of Claim 11, wherein said second extension is located on  
10 said handle first surface at a distance from said first extension which is approximately equal to seven tenths of an inch.

20. The lashing system of Claim 11, wherein said third extension extends from  
15 said handle second surface at a distant enabling the grasp of a human hand.